

Remarks

The examiner indicated in the Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief mailed April 17, 2006 that Applicant's arguments regarding claims 24 and 25 were persuasive and these claims will stand as objected in the next office action. In response, Applicant files this Amendment, adding the limitation of claim 24 to claim 1, canceling claim 24, and amending claim 25 to depend on claim 1.

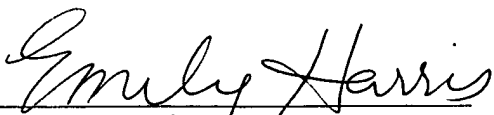
Accordingly, the purpose of the claimed invention is not taught nor suggested by the cited references, nor is there any suggestion or teaching that would lead one skilled in the relevant art to combine the references in a manner that would meet the purpose of the claimed invention. Because the cited references, whether considered alone, or in combination with one another, do not teach nor suggest the purpose of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the prior art, including the art cited merely of record.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-22 and 25, as amended, are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/15/06



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